

case. Valentina is not only a victim of a heinous violent crime, she is also a victim of the negligence of members of the Mexican government, and it's time for these outlaws to be brought to justice.

And that's just the way it is.

SALUTING SERVICE ACADEMY STUDENTS—EMMA DRIDGE

HON. SAM JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 15, 2011

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an extraordinary group of young men and women who have been chosen as future leaders in our armed forces by the prestigious United States service academies. It is a privilege to send such a fine group from the third district of Texas to pursue a world-class education and serve our nation.

As we keep them and their families in our prayers, may we never forget the sacrifices they are preparing to make while defending our freedoms all across the globe. I am so proud of each one. God bless them and God bless America.

Today I salute Emma Dridge, a United States Air Force Academy appointee. Emma is a graduate of Allen High School where she was considered an all-around overachiever in everything she did. She played high school and club volleyball where she earned numerous awards. Emma was active in Fellowship of Christian Athletes, Young Life, and the Chamber Orchestra. One of Emma's teachers said Emma demonstrates confidence, inspiration and perseverance while always giving 100 percent at all times and has the ability to motivate others to do the same. Emma chose to apply to a United States Service Academy so that she may experience a unique and extraordinary education, while also being offered a chance to contribute athletically at the highest collegiate level. Emma knows that an Air Force Academy education will provide a solid foundation for her professional and academic pursuits.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 15, 2011

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 417 for H.R. 2055, I am not recorded because I was absent. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

On rollcall No. 418 for H.R. 2055, I am not recorded because I was absent. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

On rollcall No. 419 for H. Res. 300, I am not recorded because I was absent. Had I been present, I would have voted "nay."

TRIBUTE TO FIFTY-FOURTH NATIONAL PUERTO RICAN DAY PARADE

HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 15, 2011

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to pay tribute to the Fifty-Fourth National Puerto Rican Day Parade, which will be held on June 12th, 2011, in New York City. A radiant and star-studded event, this parade proudly recognizes the heritage of Puerto Rican people here in the United States, and year upon year has proven to be one of our nation's largest outdoor festivities.

The National Puerto Rican Day Parade is the successor to the New York Puerto Rican Day Parade, which held its inaugural celebration on Sunday, April 12th, 1958, in "El Barrio," Manhattan. The impact of the first Puerto Rican Day Parade in New York was immediate and resounding. Thousands of New York Puerto Ricans flooded the streets in a very public, very proud demonstration of their emergence in the City as an important and growing ethnic group. For the next 38 years, the New York Puerto Rican Day Parade became a staple of New York's cultural life. In 1995, the overwhelming success of the parade prompted organizers to increase its size and transform it into the national and international affair that it is today.

On June 12th delegates representing over thirty states, including Alaska and Hawaii, will join the roughly 3 million parade goers every year who turn New York's Fifth Avenue into a sea of traditional red, white, and blue flags. It's a picture unlike anything you will see anywhere else in the country. Not only because New York is the most international city in the world, but also because of the relationship that exists between New York and the Puerto Rican community. It's an historic relationship essentially born of mutual benefit and respect. Puerto Ricans have helped transform New York into a dynamic, bilingual city that continues to welcome newcomers from all over the globe, and the City of New York, believed by many to be a place of opportunity, has enabled Puerto Ricans to flourish economically, culturally and politically.

The success that the parade enjoys each year is brought about in large measure by the continued efforts of a choice few individuals—women and men of able leadership who believe, as I do, in the unbound potential of people of Puerto Rican descent. The Parade's march up Fifth Avenue, while certainly the most visible aspect of the celebration, is hardly the only event associated with the National Puerto Rican Day Parade, Inc.'s activities. Each year more than 10,000 people attend a variety of award ceremonies, banquets and cultural events that strengthen the special relationship shared by Puerto Ricans and the City of New York.

Mr. Speaker, the National Puerto Rican Day Parade is an experience unlike any other. It signals to all who witness it that the Puerto Rican community, both in New York and nationally, represents an exquisite tapestry of individuals. Its power can be seen on the faces and heard in the streets, as millions come together to joyously proclaim their heritage. And

so, Mr. Speaker, as a Puerto Rican and a New Yorker, and as someone who participates in this parade annually, I stand before you and my colleagues in Congress with a full and proud heart to pay tribute to the sights and sounds and wonder that is the National Puerto Rican Day Parade.

MARK SMITH GUEST CHAPLAIN

HON. STEVE AUSTRIA

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 15, 2011

Mr. AUSTRIA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to say a few words about today's guest chaplain and my dear friend and fellow Ohioan, Dr. Mark A. Smith. Dr. Smith is a leader in faith-based education throughout Ohio and also an important leader in Pickaway County.

Since coming to Ohio Christian University in 2005, he has expanded the University's enrollment from 380 to more than 1,750 students. He has helped fund and build over \$10.5 million of projects and led the development of many off campus sites.

Dr. Smith was also appointed by former U.S. Secretary of Education Rod Paige and served on the Fund for the Improvement of Post Secondary Education Board, which managed more than 400 million dollars of projects.

Dr. Smith has experience in nearly every level of education, and he has taught several undergraduate and graduate classes in education, business, leadership, and religion. Prior to coming to Ohio Christian University, he was Vice President for Adult and Graduate Studies at Indiana Wesleyan University for five years. Under his leadership, his division grew from an enrollment of 2,500 students to nearly 10,100 students.

Though he has been anxiously engaged in education his entire life, Dr. Smith has also made community service a priority. In fact, he currently serves on my Economic Advisory Team, and I rely on him for advice to improve our economy and higher education in Ohio. He has lead many community projects and assisted in building education programs for the African-American community. He also served as treasurer of the Pickaway County Community Foundation.

Though he has proved to be an astute businessman that has successfully grown his University, Dr. Smith remains first and foremost a man of great faith. Dr. Smith is married to his wife Debbie, and they are the parents of two sons, Douglas and Micah.

While serving as an administrator for Management Resources Incorporated at Hope-mont Hospital in Terra Alta, West Virginia, Dr. Smith served as senior pastor of the Terra Alta Wesleyan Church and was Assistant Superintendent for the West Virginia District. He has published scores of articles for professional and church organizations, and coauthored "Leading a Change in Your World" with Larry Lindsay.

Dr. Smith graduated with a Bachelor of the Arts degree from Hobe Sound Bible College in West Palm Beach, Florida. He attended Kansas University's Graduate School, and graduated with a Master of Science degree in college teaching from Northeastern State University. In 1995, he graduated from West Virginia University with a Doctor of Education degree,